

“I am pleased to see that our Valley will receive funding to increase high-speed Internet access,” Costa said. “Grants like this are an investment in both the education and the economic development of our area. I look forward to seeing the results of this funding as more Valley residents gain access to job and educational opportunities, employment training, health information, and other vital services that are available online.”

With this investment, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) will coordinate a multifaceted outreach campaign using local partner organizations to disseminate information about broadband training and services to 5 million California residents. The project expects to increase adoption of broadband Internet service among key vulnerable populations by more than 130,000 households.

The award will also provide new broadband points of interconnection in the district areas of Hanford and Delano. These will be new broadband “on ramps” for service providers and end users, and will tie in to existing network gateways in Bakersfield and Fresno.

In addition to the Valley, the \$7.25 million dollar grant will assist people in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, and the Inland Empire in California. Funds were made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.